

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DIWY-01 DHA-02 SY-05 SCCT-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8261

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AMCONSUL BELFAST

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SUBJECT: REACTIONS IN REPUBLIC TO BELFAST WOMEN'S PEACE RALLIES

1. THE BELFAST WOMENS' PEACE MARCHES, RALLIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, ETC. ARE RECEIVING WIDE AND CONTINUOUS FAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN THE REPUBLIC. ALTHOUGH THE DUBLIN PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN HEADQUARTERS ISSUED A BLAST AGAINST THE MOVEMENT SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST RALLY, AUGUST 14, NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM SINN FEIN HEADQUARTERS HERE IN A WEEK. THE PROVISIONALS SEEM TO BE CONFUSED AND ARE KEEPING THEIR HEADS DOWN, NOT KNOWING QUITE HOW TO REACT.

2. AGROUP OF DUBLIN WOMEN LEADERS, LED BY JUDITH HAYES, SECRETARY OF THE GLENCREE RECONCILIATION CENTER, SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN BELFAST CONSULTING WITH MRS. WILLIAMS AND MISS CORRIGAN, (LEADERS OF THE NORTHERN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT) AND ATTENDED THE AUGUST 21 MARCH. THESE WOMEN HAVE SINCE RETURNED TO DUBLIN AND HAVE FORMED AN AD HOC GROUP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MRS. RENEE RUTLEDGE, WHICH IS MEETING NIGHTLY TO ORGANIZE VARIOUS EVENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN IN THE NORTH. THE FIRST EVENT IS A GIANT RALLY, SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 28, IN ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN DUBLIN. MRS. RUTLEDGE TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE WOMEN "ARE ALMOST LAUGHABLY

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DISORGANIZED, IF YOU CONSIDER FORMAL STRUCTURES NECESSARY,

AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT WILL LEAD. WE ARE ONLY INTERESTED
IN PEACE."

3. EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE, THOUGH
SOME INDICATE A DELICATE SCEPTICISM ABOUT THE FUTURE AND
EFFECT OF THE MOVEMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR FROM PROVISIONALS CRITICIZING THE MOVEMENT. ONE
FROM "DAVE MORLEY, COMPOUND 12, LONG KESH" SAID THAT SINCE
THE WOMEN WERE PROTESTING SOLELY AGAINST THE PROVISIONALS
THEY WERE GIVING "THE BRITISH ARMY AND THE RUC A CAST
IRON LICENSE TO KILL."

4. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT FROM THE GOI,
PROBABLY BECAUSE VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT IS ON
VACATION. WE CAN EXPECT COPIOUS COMMENT WHEN THE PARLIA-
MENT REASSEMBLES, AUG 31ST, IN SPECIAL SESSION TO CONSIDER
ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION. (SEPTTEL)
CURLEY

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